



This chip controls the operation of the entire system, and shuts down the 8088, I/O chips, etc. when they are not being used, to

conserve power

SHARP PC-5000

£1,795

300 × 318 × 90 mm

5.7 kg including printer

Intel 16-bit 8088 and 8-bit CMOS

128K RAM 192K ROM

80 character × 8 line LCD 640 × 80 graphics resolution. Built-in graphics and international characters

Cassette, external disk drive, modem output, RS232, AC power adaptor, ROM/RAM ports

Microsoft GW BASIC

Standard 57-key typewriter-style with 8 function keys, cursor control keys, three other special keys. The function keys' values are software- defined, and can appear on the last line of the screen

The manuals provided include information about setting up the PC-5000 and using MS-DOS, and are quite good. The BASIC manual has been written by Microsoft and is too technical for the first-time user

The 5000 offers most of the facilities of a full-sized machine. The built-in printer and bubble cartridges in particular place it ahead of its rivals

There are few weaknesses when you consider the developments that Sharp has made. However, the 5000 is heavy for its size and more expensive than other lapheld machines. If you are used to floppy disks, you will find the bubble memories rather slow